

What is waste and how do I know if it's hazardous?

Waste is any material (solid, liquid or contained gas) that is...

- ... discarded by being abandoned (disposed, burned, or incinerated), or
- ... recycled or reused, or
- ... considered inherently waste-like.

Waste includes anything that needs to be reclaimed or reprocessed prior to reuse. Examples of waste are water poured down a drain, an empty pop-can, and spent chemicals or solvents.

Some wastes can be reprocessed or recycled into useable products. Some can be treated prior to disposal to make them less hazardous. Some must simply be landfilled.

Hazardous wastes are wastes that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Wastes that you have always handled may be classified as hazardous.



There are two types of hazardous waste:

Characteristic: Hazardous wastes that exhibit one or more of the characteristics of toxicity, ignitability (burns easily), corrosivity, or reactivity (explosive, etc.).

Listed: Hazardous wastes that appear on any of four specific lists issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These wastes may be solid, semi-solid or liquid. Some are so dangerous that they are called **acutely hazardous wastes**, such as some pesticides that can be fatal to humans in small doses.

How do I determine my hazardous waste generator status?

Your waste generator status is determined by the volume of waste generated and/or stored at your facility. Generators fall into three categories:

- Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG)
- Small Quantity Generator (SQG)
- Large Quantity Generator (LQG)

To determine your status, calculate how much hazardous waste you produce as follows:

1. Make a list of wastes you generate.
2. Identify whether the wastes are hazardous or non-hazardous. Some resources to help with this determination include:

Think pollution prevention!

The best way to manage hazardous wastes is to reduce or eliminate them. Try this:

Map out your process to determine:

- What products do I purchase?
- What process do I use each product for?
- What waste is generated from each process?

Then consider:

- Can I use a less hazardous raw material?
- Can I modify the process to produce less waste?
- Can a new technology help reduce waste?
- Can I reuse the waste for another process?
- Have I taken adequate precautions to avoid accidental generation of waste from spills or contaminated containers?

- Material Safety Data Sheets
- Product suppliers
- EPA and DEQ
- Analytical testing labs



3. Add up the total weight of hazardous wastes generated each month. (You may need to convert volume into pounds by using the density of the specific liquid.)

You are a Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator if you generate:

- **220 pounds or less** of hazardous wastes per calendar month; or
- **2.2 pounds or less** of acutely hazardous wastes per calendar month; or
- **220 pounds or less** of spill cleanup debris containing hazardous waste per month.

As a CESQG, you are required to:

- **Keep track** of your waste by identifying all hazardous wastes generated and determining the total amount generated and stored on-site each month. Be prepared to document that you are within the limits for this classification.
- **Limit on-site storage** of hazardous wastes to no more than 2,200 lbs. at any time.
- **Properly dispose** of hazardous wastes. Ensure that all hazardous wastes are delivered to an approved municipal solid waste landfill or permitted hazardous waste facility, or a facility that beneficially uses or reuses, or legitimately recycles or reclaims the waste.

(Certain Department of Transportation requirements also may apply.)

All businesses generate wastes.
Some generate hazardous wastes.

Every business in Idaho is required to track the volume of wastes generated, determine whether or not each is hazardous, and ensure that all wastes are properly disposed of according to federal, state and local requirements.

Disposal requirements differ, depending on the type of waste and the amount generated.

This brochure is designed to assist Idaho businesses that generate small quantities of hazardous wastes to:

- ✓ distinguish between “waste” and “hazardous waste”;
- ✓ determine the appropriate hazardous waste category applicable to your business;
- ✓ understand the requirements applicable to the Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG); and
- ✓ use “pollution prevention” to reduce or eliminate hazardous wastes.

Questions?

Contact DEQ's Waste Management & Remediation Division at (208) 373-0502 or your nearest DEQ Regional Office in:

Boise Coeur d'Alene Idaho Falls
Lewiston Pocatello Twin Falls

On-line assistance

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Information on determining your hazardous waste generator status, Idaho requirements, or technical assistance.

> www.deq.state.id.us

Idaho Small Business Assistance Program

Geared toward helping small businesses understand environmental regulations.

> www.deq.state.id.us/assistance/sba/index.htm

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Information on a wide variety of environmental issues and federal regulations.

> www.epa.gov

**Managing Your Hazardous Waste,
A Guide for Small Businesses**

EPA publication.

> <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/sqg/handbook/k01005.pdf>



Hazardous Waste in Idaho:
The
Conditionally
Exempt
Small Quantity
Generator

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